VRS in Public Sector Banks

2227. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Banks in the country which propose to implement Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for their employees during 2005-06; and

(b) the percentage of the staff that would be offered VRS and the details of other conditions that would be attached thereto by each Public Sector Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under the existing Pension Regulations any employee of a Public Sector Bank (PSB) who has completed 20 years of qualifying service, by giving a notice to the appointing authority of not less than 3 months in writing, can seek voluntary retirement from service. The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that no Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme is presently under their consideration.

Grants to States as aid for natural disasters

2228. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States are having debt of thousands of crores as on today;

(b) if so, the details of debts for the last three years, State-wise and year wise;

(c) the amount of grant provided to States as aid for rehabilitation of victims of natural calamities, flood, drought and tsunami for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(d) the details of funds, if any, provided for rehabilitation of victims of natural calamity but diverted for other purposes, for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and calamity-wise; and

(e) the action taken, if any, to rectify the above?